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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **U.S. SMALL GRANTS: HELPING NIGERIAN PEOPLE**

Each year the United States Mission Nigeria's Special Self-Help program provides small grants to community development activities throughout Nigeria. This program is designed to assist communities to help themselves.

The Special Self-Help grants in the past have benefitted people in many states of Nigeria. Numerous successful, community-led projects were realized including boreholes to provide clean water; food processing machines to improve incomes for farmers; providing books and materials to schools; and constructing classrooms and health clinics. All projects have had a large impact on people in villages and rural areas and involved community participation at all levels from planning to execution.

Projects must originate in the community and members of the community have to make significant contributions to the success of the project, such as donating land, labor, skills, money, materials, supervision, or other resources. Currently, the U.S. Mission's contribution to any one project ranges from \$3,000 to \$10,000. Smaller requests are also welcome.

In 2010, fifteen Special Self-Help projects were carried out in ten different states that benefitted more than 39,500 people. A joint grant signing ceremony for the 2011 Special Self-Help Grants, Ambassador's Small Grants and PEPFAR Small Grants programs was held in early March 2012. As a result, 44 small-scale projects are currently underway in Nigeria. When completed, the projects will benefit over 150,000 men, women and children including orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV and AIDS.

[Click here](#) to listen to the Podcast on the Ambassador's small grants award ceremony held on March 5, 2012.

To request an application form for the U.S. Mission Nigeria's Special Self-Help program, please contact [abujash@state.gov](mailto:abujash@state.gov). Deadline for all 2012 applications is July 31, 2012. For more information please visit <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov/ambsshsp.html> or contact the Special Self-Help (SSH) Coordinator at [abujash@state.gov](mailto:abujash@state.gov).

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